

Theodore Klieves House  
(Chapline Street Row Historic District)  
2313 Chapline Street  
Wheeling  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-193

HABS  
WVA  
35-WHEEL  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THEODORE KLIEVES HOUSE

HABS No. WV-193

Location: 2313 Chapline Street, Wheeling  
Ohio County, West Virginia.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Dr. Thomas M. Klug.

Present Use: Doctor's office.

Significance: The Klieves brothers, Theodore and Bernard, were partners in the building and construction firm of Klieves Kraft and Company. Their success and capabilities as builders in Wheeling are apparent in their houses on Chapline Street. Their houses were designed to be identical, although today the Theodore Klieves house is missing some of the original decorative detail with which both houses were designed.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The 1885 City and County Land Book of Ohio County recorded that a building had been added which was assessed at \$4500.
2. Architect: Not known, although it is quite possible that this is the work of Architect Edgar Wells, who was a Klieves, Kraft & Co. employee and architect.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Theodore Klieves House was built on the North one half of Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition, Webster District of Wheeling. The following references to the title of this lot are found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1850 Deed, 8 March, recorded in Deed Book 33, page 524, John Eoff and wife to Naomi Cummins \$10 for Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition. Naomi Cummins died intestate leaving as her sole heirs-at-law her four children and husband, John W. Cummins.

1884 Deed, 24 October, recorded in Deed Book 76, page 180. John W. Cummins et al (absent George A. Cummins) to Theodore Klieves and wife \$5000 for three-fourth interest in Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition.

1884 Deed, 24 October, recorded in Deed Book 76, page 179. George A. Cummins and wife to Theodore Klieves and wife \$5 for one-fourth interest in Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition.

- 1912 Theodore Klieves died intestate leaving as his only surviving heirs-at-law three of his children, W. H. Klieves, Mary L. Klieves, and Emma L. Klieves.
- 1938 Deed, 26 May, recorded in Deed Book 249, page 567. W. H. Klieves to Mary L. and Emma L. Klieves, \$10 for one-third interest in Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1940 Deed, 31 December, recorded in Deed Book 261, page 383. W. H. Klieves to Mary L. Klieves one-fourth interest in several properties including Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition (North one-half not specified) as part of an estate inherited from Emma L. Klieves who died intestate leaving as her sole heirs-at-law W. H. Klieves and Mary L. Klieves,
- 1941 Mary L. Klieves died intestate leaving as her sole heir-at-law W. H. Klieves.
- 1944 Will, probated 18 December, recorded in Will Book 24, page 176, W. H. Klieves devised to his cousins Frank, Arch and Bernard Klieves and Charles H. Ebers. Frank Klieves et al (defendants) vs. Wheeling Dollar Savings and Trust Co. suit in Chancery. Court appointed Charles F. Bachman.
- 1947 Deed, 20 September, recorded in Deed Book 300, page 67, (Charles F. Bachman to Thomas M. Klug, \$1800 for North one-half of Lot 154, Chapline and Eoff Addition.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Not known.
5. Alterations, additions, etc.: Although the exterior of this house has changed over the years, the interior is much the same as it was when it was first constructed. Wall placement, doors, door casings and cabinets appear to be original.

The first floor is presently in use as a doctor's office. The second and third floors were used as an apartment but they are now vacant.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

Theodore Klieves was born in Germany in 1827 and learned there the art of carpentry and cabinet making. He came to the United States in 1845 and settled immediately in Wheeling. In 1855 he went into business for himself, conducting a carpentry, contracting and construction business until 1863. In 1868 he joined with his brothers in forming the firm of Klieves, Kraft and Company. Known as a "public spirited and valuable citizen," Theodore Klieves died in 1912 and left this house to his three surviving children, William H., Mary L. and Emma L. Klieves.

William H. Klieves was born in Wheeling in 1860 and lived at the 2313 Chapline Street for most of his adult life with his two sisters, Mary and Emma. William was a prominent business man in Wheeling. He engaged in the lumber business for his entire life and purchased the J. A. Holliday Planing Mill at the turn of the century and incorporated it

into his company, which was known as the Klieves Lumber Company. As president of this company, Klieves combined the work begun by his father and uncle in the Kieves, Kraft Company.

After William's death in 1944, the property was ultimately sold to Dr. Thomas M. Klug. Klug lived in this house with his family and practiced medicine in the two front rooms of the house. Today the house stands vacant. Dr. Klug continues to hold office hours here every day between one and four o'clock. He charges \$2 and \$3 for office visits and \$3 for house calls, and many of his patients have received medical attention from him at the same office for over 30 years.

C. Sources of Information:

Anonymous: History of the Upper Ohio Valley, with Family History and Biographical Sketches, Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1890.

Wheeling Intelligencer, Tuesday, November 7, 1944, "Obituary Column"

Interviews: Mrs. Orval Carter  
September 13, 1976

Prepared by: Candace Reed,  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
September 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION;

A. General Statement;

1. Architectural character: This three-story brick residence is one of two buildings on the block, originally built as identical structures. The houses are next door to each other at 2313 and 2315 Chapline Street. This residence, at 2313, has been altered very little on the interior.
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior is deteriorating, although it is still in moderately good condition. The major problem is that portions of the major cornice have been removed. The interior, although largely unused, is in fairly good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular shape, approximately twenty six feet across three-bay front (east) and about sixty five feet deep. Three stories in front, two in rear,
2. Foundations: Stone and brick.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick.
4. Structural system, framing: Inaccessible, not noted.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: There is a small stoop set into the front wall. Five steps lead up to this level. There are new aluminum railings on the sides of the steps. In the rear, southwest corner of the building, is an open covered frame porch.
6. Chimneys: Five on the three-story section and one on the two-story section.

7. Openings:

- a. Doors and doorway: The front entrance is a double doorway set into the wall. The doors appear to be original. Each door has decorative panels in the lower half and a glass pane in the upper half.

There is a glass transom above. The stained glass units, as seen in the adjacent Bernard Klieves House at 2315 Chapline Street (HABS No. WV-192), are missing here - apparently having been replaced. A stone lintel resembling an Egyptian motif is set into the exterior. There are other exterior doors at the porch and basement in the rear.

- b. Windows and shutters: See photographs.

8. Roof: See photographs

- a. Shape, covering: See photographs.

- b. Cornice, eaves: See photographs.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The floor plans of the building have apparently been maintained fairly intact as originally built. The upper floors other than the hallway were inaccessible, but it appears that few changes have been made. The entry foyer is to the right (north) of the plan, with a straight run stair to the upper floors. The hallway extends back to the second stairway, along the central section of the north wall. This stair connects the first and second floors. The remainder of the floor is divided into four rooms. The two front rooms on the left (south) are connected by a double doorway, and both have doors to the hall. The back one of the two has a large projecting bay on the south wall. Beyond this is a smaller room opposite the second set of stairs. It opens onto the porch. At the back of the house is a large room extending the full width of the building. The upper floors at the three-story section have a stair and hallway to the north directly above the entry hall and with rooms opening off the hall. The basement is entered from the back room, first floor, as well as the exterior. It is divided into several rooms.

2. Flooring: Primarily wooden floors, although there is some linoleum and carpet. The basement floor is both concrete and brick.
  3. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster generally. The basement has some beaded vertical wooden paneling on the walls as well as some exposed brick.
  4. Doors and doorways: The interior doors and door casings appear to be original. The casings in the front rooms and central hall have a curved design.
  5. Decorative features: There are built-in corner cabinets in the back room, first floor. These appear to be of an early design, with glass panels in the doors to the cabinets. There is also an interesting design to the pocket doors in the front rooms. The plaster relief designs of the wall, near the ceiling, in the front parlor are an additional noteworthy feature.
  6. Mechanical equipment: Contemporary.
- D. Site and Surroundings: Similar to Bernard Klieves site at 2315 Chapline street. (HABS No. WV-192)

Prepared by: John McRae  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
September 1976

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McRae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher.